

STREET SIGHTS IN LONDON; WOMEN'S STRANGE WORK

The Young and Wealthy Girl Who Does Special War Service in Driving Immense Motor Van Fearlessly Through London Streets

By ELLEN ADAIR

THREE weeks ago in London from the top of a bus in the Strand I watched the wonderful turnings and twistings of a great motor van as it sped through the traffic.

And when at last we reached Piccadilly Circus and turned sharply into Regent street, I descended from my perch on high and came face to face with the driver of the motor van.

"How on earth do you manage to guide that great van at the rate of 35 miles an hour through the London traffic?" I asked, amazed.

"The pretty little driver laughed in an amused way. "It's war work, and I love it!" she said. "I have two private cars of my own in the country which I've just handed over to the War Office, and I've been accustomed to drive since I was 13 years old."

"But this is very heavy work," I said, "and you don't look old enough to do it."

"Oh, I'm quite ancient!" was the answer. "I shall be 18 next week! I'm an only child, and some of the mothers of my friends, I began to realize what an awful thing war is!"

"From that it gradually began to penetrate my fluffy brain that this particular war was the most serious that England has ever been engaged in. The whole country slowly awoke to the dangers that faced it. Boys I knew were killed. This sobered me."

"Then I began to read the papers more carefully, and from them realized that

it was up to every one of us to do something to help.

"But what could I do? They wouldn't take me as a nurse, I knew, for I hadn't had any training at all. I couldn't take a man's position for him in an office, because I knew nothing about office work. I felt myself an utterly useless creature!"

"At any rate," I said to myself, "I can save some of my dress allowance and buy a cigarette for the soldiers."

"Then, quite soon afterwards, a chance came for me to do something else. I heard that certain firms in the city wanted to send their motor driver to the front, but could not spare him, as no one was to be found to take his place!"

"However, they consented to give me a trial, and under an escort of three solemn gentlemen I drove their great motor van all through the region round the bank and wherever the traffic happened to be thickest."

"At first these men held their breath. I'm sure they were afraid I should run into something and that we should all be killed. But my old experience stood me in good stead, and at the end of that first trip they congratulated me on my driving abilities."

"It takes me all day to do what I have to do. There are parcels to deliver, parcels to fetch, and any number of trains to be met. Accounts must be made up, and of course, as I have daily to drive distances out of London, there are chances of a breakdown in many of the lonely roads."

"But I am perfectly content. I understand the work on the understanding that the previous driver was to go to the front and that his salary—now due to me in full—of course, I should never dream of touching—would be paid over to his poor old mother."

"Yes, the work is hard, I admit that. But it is all worth while when I realize that by doing this work I am freeing a man for his country's service and at the same time providing for his mother, so that no financial anxiety need trouble him during his labors at the front."

HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM NOW EQUAL TO BEST; THREE NEW BUILDINGS

South Philadelphia High School for Girls is Fireproof and Has All Modern Improvements

TWO FOR BOTH SEXES

A system of secondary education equal to that of any city in the country will be placed in operation here September 5, when the new school term will begin.

Three new high schools, costing the taxpayers more than \$2,000,000, will be ready for occupancy at the date although every feature of the new structures may not be complete. Many hundreds of men have been at work day and night, hastening completion of the structures to meet the army of boys and girls awaiting admission may not be disappointed.

The new schools are located at Broad street and Snyder avenue, in South Philadelphia; Oxford place and Wakefield street, Frankford; and High street and Germantown avenue, Germantown. The South Philadelphia school will accommodate girls, while both sexes will be included in the student body of the other schools.

The boys of South Philadelphia now are taught in the school at Broad street and Snyder avenue. The new girls' high school will be known as the "South Philadelphia High School for Girls," in accordance with the requests of a large number of residents of that section of the city.

ONE SCHOOL NAMED

The Board of Education originally had intended to call it the Southern High School for Girls, but to this title the parents objected. No names have yet been assigned to the other new high schools.

The new Frankford building, on the site of the old Frankford Country Club, will be occupied by boys of the Frankford Annex of the Central High School. The erection of the school and the speed with which the improvement was accomplished is due largely to the activities of the Fathers Association, a society consisting of parents of students.

Plans for all of the high schools were drawn by Henry Dec. Richards, chief draughtsman for the Board of Education. Erection of the schoolhouses was supervised by J. Horace Cook, superintendent of school buildings.

NOT COEDUCATIONAL

Although the Frankford and Germantown schools will admit boys and girls, the instruction will not be essentially coeducational. A large building will separate two wings of each of the three schools, each of which will house one sex. The center building will contain executive offices, faculty meeting rooms and an auditorium.

Study halls, gymnasium, domestic science laboratories, sanitary lunch rooms and lecture halls of the most modern type will be part of each of the three schools. The buildings will be fireproof. Humidifiers have been installed, so that all of the air breathed by the occupants will have been thoroughly "sweated."

Kensington also is to have a new high school. Although no contract has been awarded for its erection, the site has been selected and work will be begun within the year. This school will accommodate girls and will correspond to the present Northeast High School for Boys, which is located at 8th street and Lehigh avenue.

2000 VOICES TRY FOR CHORUS

Rehearsals Soon to Begin for Mammoth Production of Mahler's Eighth Symphony

Rehearsals of three great choral masses, comprising nearly 2000 voices, that will be used in the production next March of Gustav Mahler's eighth symphony, will begin within a few days. The symphony will be given in the Academy of Music at a cost of about \$15,000.

Philadelphia was given the irrefragable honor of the first American production of this symphony. Boston also bid for it through the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

More than 2000 voices already have been tried out for the choruses, of which two will number 800 voices each and the other 150 voices. Rehearsals will be held Monday and Wednesday in the auditorium of the Curtis Building until March 1.

CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING

Bride of 50 Years Ago Recommends Long "Courtships" as Guide to Happiness

"A long courtship is the safest guide to a happy marriage," said Mrs. William B. Troupe, hostess to 100 guests today, the 50th anniversary of her marriage, as she sat with her husband on their veranda, at 6256 Woodland avenue. Among the guests were their four surviving children, 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

The guests began to gather this morning for the cutting of the wedding cake, a 15-pound confection. The eldest child is Mrs. Ella Wilson of Somers Point, N. J.; the eldest grandchild, Thomas D. Willard, 227 South Felton street, and the eldest great-grandchild, Leonard Frame, 8 years old, 6246 Reinhardt street.

Mr. and Mrs. Troupe were married in a church at 81st street and Woodland avenue, then a rural section. All their married life they have lived in the neighborhood and watched the city gradually grow out to their home and then beyond it. The bridegroom was 22 years old and his bride was 17. Mr. Troupe is a carpenter at the Erie car works and is a veteran of the Civil War, having fought in 41 battles in Company F of the Second Pennsylvania Cavalry.

Little Benny's Note Book

Pop was setting awn the fruit steps smooking this afternoon and I was setting there watching him and thinking, and after a while I sed, Hav, Pop. Hays for horsing around, are worth a couple of any way of taking stanes out of pants, I sed.

You dont mean to say you want to no for your own eddificayshn, sed Pop. Yes, I sed.

Well, and a cuppl of wells, sed pop, the world must be coming to an end, I awrways had an idee yure motto was the most stane the merrier, sed Pop. No air, do you no of any way of getting them out, I sed.

Well, I awd depends awn the stanes, was petrickle kind of stanes wood you like to exterminate, sed pop. Ink stanes, I sed.

Thats a nice kind, sed pop, hum, lets see, I no thars no way of diskurridging ink stanes, I red it wunte awn the womans page, lets see, I think you ferst ruz the stanes well with coal oil and benzene and then apply a lighted candle, or perhaps it woud be quicky to jest apply the candle without waiking to rub awn the oil, or I bieve a good old fashioned way is to smeer the stanes with milk and (at the files file them out, but howevver and be that as it may, I wunt to impress my appreshation of yure good intentions, and awn the prinisid that petrickle kind of stanes wood you like to exterminate, sed pop. And he gave me a sent, saying, Wich pair of pants was it.



A NEW BLOUSE FROM PARIS

NEWEST FALL BLOUSES WILL MATCH THE TAILORED SUITS

GEORGETTE, of Bordeaux, gave us the transparent blouse, and its numerous successors and imitators are still with us. Fall styles in blouses are to be seen in all the shops, of course, and one more or less authoritative fashion writer says that the rage for colored blouses, to harmonize or contrast with the tailored costume, will be the thing for informal wear. She also continues that transparent blouses of silk net, draped crepe de chine and chiffon crepe will still be in favor. This is easily believed, because the soft lace and net blouses are always charming, and I cannot believe that women will give up so becoming a style very quickly, in spite of a fashionable edict.

A Parisian designer gives us the little net blouse shown in today's illustration. It is simple to a degree, but the truly French characteristics are noticeable in every line of the creation. The fichu effect at the neck is entirely novel. It has been suggested in various ways by designers before, but I venture to say that this is one of the earliest styles which distinctly displays the old-fashioned mode in all its simplicity, unrelieved by any touches of modernity.

BIDDLE BIBLE CLASSES TO BE CHRISTIAN ARMY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

Military Training Planned "for Peace Purposes Rather Than for War"—Affects 80,000 in Thirty States

Optimism the Keynote of a Situation Unusually Bright With Promise of Good Times

12,000 ARE PLEDGED SURE TRADE BAROMETER

The first organized religious movement in the United States to provide a national defense organization ready to answer the country's call should a foe attempt an invasion will be launched in this city this week, when the directors of the Drexel Biddle Bible Classes announce their plans for training their members along military lines.

The idea, according to Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, who is the father of the movement, is to form the military organization for peace purposes rather than for war, and it will cover 80,000 members of the Bible Classes in 30 States of the Union.

Forty speakers, directors in the Bible Classes, are putting the idea before the churchgoing people of these States, and with the aid of many assistants, they will speak in hundreds of churches throughout the country on Sunday.

Thousands of pledges have been distributed among the church people, which read as follows: "We, the undersigned, are American citizens. We promise our God to protect the flag and the honor of the United States of America with our lives."

More than 2000 signatures have been obtained by Mr. Biddle personally, and he said that fully 10,000 more were in the hands of the other speakers.

"We have just been feeling public opinion out on this matter," he said, "and we find that the church people as a whole stand against preparation for war. We are not preparing for war, but for peace. We place peace above everything else, but we realize that in order to preserve it a body of reserve citizens must be trained along military lines. The fact of being actually prepared to defend our homes in times of invasion is the foremost factor of peace."

"We believe with General Leonard Wood, who is one of our counselors, in the 'Plattburg' idea, and it is intention to follow out many features that have been brought out there. We know that war is against the teachings of Christ, but we also believe that preparedness for war insures peace."

Mr. Biddle pointed out that the majority of church people who advocate national disarmament come from remote sections of the country where they would be not at the outset be subject to land or sea attacks. The people along the sea coasts and borders, however, were in imminent danger from the ravages of an invading army, and, consequently, the idea of having a body of men always prepared would insure peace by warning the foe to keep out.

Just what form the organization would take was not disclosed by Mr. Biddle. That it would be military in its character was admitted, but the method of training the men and the organization of the companies is left to the discretion of the local directors of the Bible Classes, who will announce their plans when the campaign closes on Sunday.

Mr. Biddle said that many members of the classes were also members of National Guard or other military organizations, and they were enthusiastically endorsing the idea.

CUPID'S BUSIEST AUGUST

1184 Couples Licensed to Wed Surpasses All Records Here

Cupid was far more active in the month just ending than in any previous August in the history of the city's Marriage License Bureau.

Exactly 1184 couples applied for licenses, demonstrating that warm weather is never so extreme that it can impede the activities of the wily little god. June, however, is still the "month of roses." This year's record showed that 116 young and maiden became man and wife in that month.

ERA OF PROSPERITY INDICATED BY BOOM IN REAL ESTATE

Optimism the Keynote of a Situation Unusually Bright With Promise of Good Times

One word sums up the real estate situation in Philadelphia today, and that word is optimism with a big "O." What the wheat yield means to the Middle West, what steel tonnage means to Pittsburg, Cleveland and Buffalo, the real estate market means to Philadelphia, the city of homes. It is the infallible barometer for every other line of business. It is the pulse that sends the vivifying life-stuff through every other artery of trade. When renting and selling are brisk other lines of business are quick to respond.

A representative of the Evening Ledger interviewed several firms and individuals engaged in the various departments of the real estate business, and found this spirit of optimism pervaded the whole atmosphere.

A walk through the business section of the city, especially on Broad street, shows an unusual number of "To Rent" signs, especially on ground-floor stores. The few which are vacant have only recently been vacated and as they are most desirable in location, they are being held in reserve for prospective purchasers, with attractive surroundings and in desirable locations, they will not likely go begging when the fall trade begins to get under way.

One cannot help contrasting the real estate situation in the prosperous "satellite" dry goods district of Philadelphia with the present appearance of what was until recently the principal dry goods district of New York, where on Broadway from 14th to 23d street and along 23d to 6th avenue, desertion and desolation mark the unoccupied buildings which a few years ago were the largest and most prosperous retail dry goods stores in the country. No such parallel exists or ever can exist in Philadelphia. The demand for offices in the large buildings is very good. No better index of this can be found than the success which is attending the obtaining of tenants for the offices and stores in the new Widener Building, which is filling up rapidly.

Apartment houses report many inquiries among the better class. Some of them are already from 70 to 100 per cent full.

While the development of suburban property is somewhat slow, the outlook for the coming fall is very hopeful and when the plans are set in motion and are properly understood a boom in properties located along the new routes is sure to follow.

One firm which does a large business in suburban property along the Main Line and the Chestnut Hill branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad claims to have sold several properties in the past few months for \$100,000 to \$200,000 each.

By E. T. Stobeybury of a large acreage reported by the Chestnut Hill section, where it is in a mansion, has given property in that neighborhood something of a boom.

"Hello, there, friends," he called cordially. "Want a piece?"

"Maybe," said Billy Robin; "let's go see." So together Billy Robin and Tommy Sparrow flew over to the park to hunt up Blue Blackbird.

Now, as a matter of fact, Blue had stayed all this long time in the park, because he was having such a good time, that he never could make up his mind to go back to the garden.

There were fishermen in the park who were baiting carefully around where birds might eat it up; and picknickers who were sitting on the grass.

"I wanted to drink the draught of life. To swallow its very drop; The warm red flame that lay between The dress and bubbles on top. I quaffed from a goblet filled to the brim, With never a thought of the rue, Till my soul grew faint and my heart was a sieve."

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DOORSTEP MISSION WORKERS; WHAT THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

Mothers' Clubs in Afro-American Churches Have Founded Welfare Leagues for Outdoor Instruction During Summer Months

IN 1914 the Women's Directory of Philadelphia began a course of instruction to mothers on child welfare work. Both white and colored people were invited, but it was the Afro-Americans who took practical hold of the thought. The result was that when Mrs. Clara Jones, of the Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, told the Women's Directory how anxious the women of her race were to qualify themselves to instruct children regarding vital truths of life, arrangements were made to give instruction in any church applying for it.

There are already five churches which have established child welfare leagues, and others churches are in the waiting. The instruction is supplemented by work outside the churches. This outside work has been carried on from the first week of June all through the summer, concluding with September, in a weekly series of doorstep meetings, a member of the league providing the doorstep.

A transparency with the name of the church to which the welfare league belongs quickly attracts the children of the neighborhood to that particular doorstep when it gives instruction in the kind of work only during the summer was there any trouble, and that was August 21, when the meeting was at 1428 North 23d street, a neighborhood where there are as many white people as colored. A group

of white boys, between the ages of 12 and 18, seemed determined to prevent the voice of the speaker from being heard. A policeman had to restore order, but one of the workers remarked to Dr. Charlotte Abbey, superintendent of the Women's Directory: "If you had not been here and we had tried to protest against it, there would have been trouble, and if anyone had been injured, the blame would have been placed on the negroes. The best kind of white people don't know how we differ from the class to which these white boys belong. It is such white boys who are ready to become henchmen."

The concluding meetings of the doorstep workers will be held September 2 at 1 p. m., at the Union Baptist Church, and September 9 at the same hour at the Union Methodist Episcopal Church. These meetings are free to all, and one of the most significant facts about them is that there is no tax or collection of any kind. The propagation is entirely free from financial obligations.

Dr. Charlotte Abbey is among the prominent speakers who will preside at these meetings. The following quotation is taken from the pamphlet on the subject of child welfare: "Through living the kind and useful life we become obedient to the law, and through this obedience grow up into strong Christlike man or woman."

PAUL ARMSTRONG, PLAYWRIGHT, DIES

Author of "Alias Jimmy Valentine" and Other Dramas Victim of Heart Disease

NEW YORK, Aug. 31.—Funeral arrangements had not been made today for Paul Armstrong, playwright, best known for his "Heir to the Throne," "Alias Jimmy Valentine" and "The Deep Purple," who died very suddenly late yesterday from an attack of heart disease.

"Please let me sleep," were the last words of Armstrong, as he expired in his Park avenue apartment after being stricken while taking his wife home from a railway station in his automobile. She had just returned from Baltimore, where the dramatist underwent treatment two months ago in Johns Hopkins Hospital for heart trouble. Armstrong, his family and friends thought he was cured.

In 1913 Armstrong was divorced by his wife, Mrs. Relia Armstrong, of Kansas City, Mo., and shortly afterward he married Miss Katherine Calvert, who was leading woman in "The Deep Purple," and was expecting to play the leading part in a new play on which her husband was working when he died. They had one child, Paul, a year old. The late Mr. Armstrong was awarded \$5,000 a year alimony for the support of herself and their three daughters.

Pat him on the back with impunity. Greet him with effusiveness. Welcome him warmly—unless you like him on the half shell or in a cocktail—eat him with salt and pepper.

WOULD RESTORE PALESTINE

Jewish Congress to Work for Establishment of Nation Urged

A Jewish congress probably will be held in Washington in October for the purpose of creating world-wide sentiment in favor of the restoration of Palestine and the establishment there of a Jewish nation.

This was the announcement made following a mass-meeting of Jews in the Arch Street Theatre last night, at which Philip H. Hirschberg, of "Red Sunday" fame, was the principal speaker.

The speakers said that the Jewish race would lose its identity if not organized with a central government in Palestine. Each Jewish organization will be requested to send delegates to a congress at Washington so that all elements may be represented in the movement.

The speakers included Louis Lipsky, M. Katz, editor of the Jewish World; Professor Charles Fineman, Dr. Charles Zhitkovsky and Dr. N. Pirkin. An annual meeting will be held at Lyric Hall tonight.

Bluey Shares His Bread

Bluey Blackbird stayed over in the park so long that the garden folks nearly forgot what he was like—at least they had time to forget his faults, which were, perhaps, a good thing.

So when Billy Robin on a bright sunny morning said to Tommy Sparrow, "I do miss Bluey Blackbird! I wonder where he has gone?" Tommy Sparrow was really concerned.

"I'm sure I can't imagine where he is," replied Tommy, looking all around the scattered crumbs over the grass—oh, the park was a fine place for Bluey.

Billy and Tommy flew straight to the spot where they had last played with Bluey, a pretty little nook at the side of the lagoon. "This is where I saw him last," said Tommy, "maybe he will come around near here soon—that is, if he is in the park."

But though they looked and looked, no Bluey turned up to greet them. "I believe he's better off around a bit," suggested Billy Robin, and they flew across the lagoon to the beach on the other side.

There, just around the curve of the shore, they saw Bluey, and what do you suppose he was doing? Billy and Tommy craned their necks to see, but they could not quite make out what it was. So they crept closer and closer and watched carefully.

Bluey had something white which he dipped in the water. Then he took it out and pecked at it, and then dropped it in the water again. "Looks to me like bread," said Billy, "but of course, he wouldn't dip bread in the lake!"

Just then, when their curiosity was getting unbearable, Bluey spied them. "Hello, there, friends," he called cordially. "Want a piece?"

OYSTERS HERE SOON TO GLADDEN GULLETS

Eight-Months Season Open Tomorrow—Everybody Has Chance to Win Pearl

By Jupiter, by gosh and Jove. Now here's the Maurice River Cove, on September 2 at the same hour at the Union Methodist Episcopal Church. These meetings are free to all, and one of the most significant facts about them is that there is no tax or collection of any kind. The propagation is entirely free from financial obligations.

Dr. Charlotte Abbey is among the prominent speakers who will preside at these meetings. The following quotation is taken from the pamphlet on the subject of child welfare: "Through living the kind and useful life we become obedient to the law, and through this obedience grow up into strong Christlike man or woman."

Pat him on the back with impunity. Greet him with effusiveness. Welcome him warmly—unless you like him on the half shell or in a cocktail—eat him with salt and pepper.

Consider, as some one has said, the oyster. He is a boon to mankind. True, he is rather a clammy visitor if slipped down the back of one's neck shy his shell, but if he is sent through the right channel he is delicious.

This year he is plentiful. The oyster men you read about who shanghai men to shanghai oysters from their happy homes at the bottom of the coves, lays and other places where oysters have been, are already on their way up the river with tons of him—the oyster. Tomorrow he will make his debut.

And then there is the matter of pearls. Did you ever find a pearl in an oyster? No? Well, they have been found, and that's why some people will not eat the beans any way but on the half shell. The danger of this method is that most persons who find pearls in oysters break a tooth or two so doing. It takes all the profit from the pearl to have the tooth fixed, but there's the satisfaction of it, anyway.

Note: The author of the above wins the free trip to Ypres by discussing oysters without calling them succulent bivalves.

Knowledge

To swallow its very drop; The warm red flame that lay between The dress and bubbles on top. I quaffed from a goblet filled to the brim, With never a thought of the rue, Till my soul grew faint and my heart was a sieve."

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Advertisement for PLECO GREASELESS CLEANING CREAMS, featuring a rat and text: "Always gnawing at the pocket-books of the farmers of America, destroying nearly a billion dollars worth of food and property every year. Kill your rats and mice and stop your loss with RAT CORN. It is safe to use. Deadly to rats, but harmless to humans. Rats simply dry up. No odor whatever. Visible holes in such can. 'How to Destroy Rats.' 25c, 50c, and \$1.00. 6-lb. pail, \$5.00. In Stock, Hardware, Drug and General Stores. BOSTON, MASS. PHILA., PA." All Drug and Dept. Stores.